



Experience a Timeless Landscape and Legacy

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Intermountain Region

Darlene M. Koontz

June 26, 2006

Bandelier National Monument
15 Entrance Road
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544-9508
505.672.3861, ext. 502



Intermountain Region News Release

BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT REMINDS VISITORS ABOUT FIRE AND HIKING SAFETY

Darlene M. Koontz, Superintendent of Bandelier National Monument announced today, "We appreciate the cooperation of all of our visitors in complying with our fire restrictions last month. Although we've had recent moisture and cooler temperatures, fire conditions remain extreme. We have decided to close our remote backcountry areas and limit day hiking to less remote trails beginning on Tuesday, June 27, 2006. All visitor facilities are still open and our anniversary activities are still in full-swing."

"The heat, high winds, high lightning frequency and extreme fire danger are all things that hikers must be prepared for," added Koontz. "We encourage all hikers to avoid these extreme conditions by doing shorter hikes, drinking enough water to stay hydrated, staying aware of weather conditions, and selecting hiking locations with shade. High-elevation areas such as the Alamo Boundary Trail and the Cerro Grande Route are great hiking options in the mornings when lightning is less likely."

"As an added safety measure, all hikers are required to register at the trailheads or the visitor center," said Chief Ranger Carl Newman. "This will enable us to locate hikers in the event of a wildfire. All hikers need to watch for trail registers and notices as we proceed through the fire season."

"Smokers are also encouraged to be careful with their cigarettes," said Fire Management Officer Gary Kemp. "Smoking is still permitted in some paved areas and in personal vehicles but not on park trails or in vegetated areas."

Visitors to the Monument may still use safe, petroleum-heated stoves, lanterns or cooking devices in the designated front-country campgrounds. Stoves should only be used in locations clear of vegetation or other flammable materials.

The Main Loop and Falls Trails in Frijoles Canyon, the Frijoles Rim Trail, Frijoles Canyon from Ponderosa Campground to the Visitor Center, Burnt Mesa, the ski trail, Apache Springs, the Alamo Boundary Trail, the Cerro Grande Route, and the Tsankawi unit will all remain open for day hiking. Fire conditions will continue to be monitored and areas will be reopened as conditions improve.

The toll free fire restriction hotline phone number for New Mexico is: (877) 864-6985. For further fire information visit www.nmfireinfo.com.

"DO YOUR PART, DON'T LET A WILDFIRE START!"

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.